SUPPOSED OLDEST HOUSE IN THE METROPOLIS.—Till within the last few days a very ancient house stood in Hoxton Old Town, which was believed to have been nearly five hundred years old, but which is now pulled down. The Parliamentary Survey, No. 78, as reported in Sir H. Ellis's "History of Shoreditch," of which Hoxton is one of the divisions, states that about this spot, during the interregnum, a house was in the possession of Charles Stuart, sometime King of England, in 1653, which was valued at 4*l.* per annum. It was of a very novel construction, and of large dimensions. The outward door, which was formed of wood, was beautifully carved and figured, with oak leaves, grape foliage, &c. In the course of the demolition of the mansion a brick was found dated above one hundred and fifty years back, but the greater portion of the bricks were of a much earlier period, being of a deep red colour and highly polished. Some artist, previous to its destruction, took designs from it. There was such a large quantity of bricks, that they were sufficient to build fourteen houses, and a sufficient quantity of wood to erect many more. The lead alone weighed above two tons. The report in the parish is that the house was formerly in the possession of Oliver Cromwell. This locality, from the 14th to the 17th century, was the resort of the nobility of that period.—[Such is the current report, but the style of this house did not exhibit such antiquity; it will be seen from the above description that a date more probable is that of the latter part of the reign of James I.—ED.]

CAPTAIN BULLOCK'S BEACON FOR GOODWIN SANDS.—This beacon is now nearly ready in Deal Dockyard.—It consists of a stout mast, cleted on each side, with man-ropes to assist in ascending to the top, and measures in circumference 25 feet 6 inches. The heel fixes into a cast-iron socket of 15 cwt., which is 12 feet long, and is intended to pierce the sand with a kind of screw-end. The mast, from the iron socket to the top, is 27 feet, and from the top to the mast-head 7 feet more, with a cap on its head. Above this is a stump topmast 6 feet high, with a truck on its head to hoist a flag, and the iron stays to support the mast are getting ready at the forges in the yard. The enterprising Captain Bullock is in the Downs on board the Porcupine surveying vessel, anxiously expecting the report of the chief engineer, who superintends the work in the yard, and who has promised to have every thing ready for placing during the present week.

THE LONG AND DISGRACEFULLY NEGLECTED MONUMENT AT CARMARTHEN.—We are glad to find that a subscription is on foot for the purpose of repairing, renovating, and conserving the monument or cairn erected in memory of General Picton at Carmarthen. It is intended that the ornamental entablatures, &c., designed by Bailey, and which, on the first occasion, were formed of Roman cement, shall now be erected in stone; and, if the funds prove adequate, to replace the present figure of the gallant Picton by one of bronze. The Right Hon. Lord Dynevor heads the list with a subscription of 50*l.*, and the Hon. Colonel Trevor subscribes the same amount. Captain Gwynne, the chairman of the old Welsh committee, and to whose activity on former occasions is due in a great measure the erection of the monument, has consented to take upon himself again the labour of the office.—*Carmarthen Journal.*

DUNMOW BRITISH SCHOOLS.—The new building, recently erected on a piece of ground near the Dunmow Downs, the gift of Beldam Johns, Esq., and calculated to hold about 100 children of each sex, was opened on Friday week, when a public meeting was held, Mr. W. I. Clayton in the chair; and there was, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, a respectable attendance of between 200 and 300, including most of the subscribers and promoters of the institution. The school-rooms, which we understand cost 600*l.* in the erection, are now open for the admission of children.

NEW LUNATIC ASYLUM FOR WARWICKSHIRE.—It has been officially announced that the important subject of a county lunatic asylum for Warwickshire will be taken into consideration by the magistrates at the next Quarter Sessions, which are fixed to be held at Warwick, on Monday, the 30th of December next.

COMPLETION OF THE SCOTT MONUMENT.—On Saturday last this monument was completed by the placing of the topmost stone on the structure. On its being fairly placed in its position, by the W.G.M. of the Celtic Lodge of Freemasons, Mr. W. Donaldson, the workmen greeted it with three hearty cheers. The altitude of the building was taken at the time by Mr. Nicol, the master of the works, and proved to be 200 feet 6 inches above the level of Princes'-street, and about 5 feet above the spire of St. Andrew's Church, being 20 feet 6 inches above the originally contemplated level. There is still much to be done before the monument is out of the hands of the builders, and exposed, without the interruption of the scaffolding to the view of the public.—*Scotsman.*

NEW SUSPENSION BRIDGE FROM CHELSEA HOSPITAL TO THE RED-HOUSE, BATTERSEA.—The requisite surveys and estimates for this bridge were made last year by Mr. Bird, the engineer, and arrangements were conditionally made with several of the proprietors of land on the south side of the Thames for the purpose of approaches. The protected bridge, which has a communication in a direct line from Belgrave-square and the adjacent neighbourhood, having been approved of by the Lords Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital, and other parties whose land would be taken on the north side of the Thames, application will be made to Parliament in the ensuing session for an act authorizing the construction of the bridge.

PREVENTION OF COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—A committee will be appointed immediately on the assembling of Parliament for the purpose of investigating the causes of the numerous explosions that have lately taken place in the coal districts, and to ascertain whether means can be devised to protect the working collier and miner from the dreadful accidents he is at present liable to. A correspondent suggests the employment of the light obtained from electricity to illuminate mines, instead of lamps and candles, electrical light being produced without burning, that is independently of air, and confined in tubes hermetically sealed.

IMMENSE OAK.—The following are the particulars of the great Risca Oak, near Newport, Monmouthshire, purchased by Thomas Harrison, in 1814, at 100 guineas, converted and sold by him for more than 400*l.*:—The body or bole of the tree was only 10 feet long, and measured 450 feet; there were in the limbs twelve navy pieces, one of which made a rudder for a 98-gun ship, and the whole of the sound timber in the tree was 48 loads and 11 feet, of 50 feet to the load. The bark was only about 4 tons.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

SUBSTITUTION FOR WOOD AT CAPE TOWN.—The bones of the whale seem almost entirely to supply the place of wood (which latter they are obliged to bring from a considerable distance), being used for rafters of houses and sheds, palings of gardens, for mile-stones, and in one instance I observed for the construction of a bridge. I was also told they occasionally use them for fuel.—*Captain Conyngham's Recollections.*

ARCHITECTURAL AND MECHANICAL PREMIUMS.—The Liverpool Polytechnic Society proposes to give prizes for communications of adequate merit on the following subjects:—A medal for the best mechanical or architectural drawing. A medal for the best mechanical or architectural model, shewing the latest improvements. A medal for the best model of a ship, shewing the latest improvements. All models and drawings will be returned.

NEW BARRACKS AND STOREHOUSE IN THE TOWER.—The Board of Ordnance has directed the foundations to be completely cleared by the 14th instant. The barracks are to be built somewhat after the style of the Wellington Barracks, in St. James's Park; and when finished, the garrison will afford ample accommodation for a whole regiment.

FORTIFICATIONS OF RASTADT, IN GERMANY.—The *Sunbian Mercury* states that the works of the fortifications of Rastadt are on so extensive a scale, that although 6,000 men have been employed upon them for three years, six years more will be required for their completion.

SURVEYOR TO THE HABERDASHERS' COMPANY.—This office is at the present time vacant. Persons applying for the same must put themselves in communication with Mr. W. Nelson Beechey, Haberdashers' Hall, Maiden-lane, on or before the 23rd instant.

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for rebuilding Coach-house and Workshops in Bridle-lane, Golden-square.—W. Cadogan, Esq., Architect.

Hall	£704 18
Johnson	698 0
Chesterman	695 0

TENDERS delivered for erecting two Houses and Workshops at Hoxton for Mr. Marlborough.—Mr. John Parkinson, Surveyor.

Little, Hackney-road	£1926
Hayworth, Kingsland	1750
Hort and Perry	1750
Norris, Hackney	1567
Little, Kingsland	1552
Elston, Wormwood-street	1400

Quantities supplied.

TENDERS delivered for building Trinity District Schools, Mile End.—Messrs. Ford and Gagan, Architects.

Furnival	£1608 0
Livermore	1557 0
Brown	1548 0
Hedges	1535 0
Darke	1525 0
Edwards	1520 0
Norris	1497 0
Cooper and Davis	1485 0
McLean	1482 0
Turner	1471 10
Gerry	1374 0

TENDERS delivered for the Erection of Eight Houses at Wapping.—Mr. H. Flower, Architect.

Jay	£2575
Curtis	2425
Wilson	2358
Haines and Co.	2375
Outhwaite	2439
Trego	2360
West	2510

The tenders were opened in the presence of the Builders, November 14.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For the erection of Gas Apparatus for lighting the Devon County Lunatic Asylum, also for Apparatus for Cooking, Washing, Drying, and Warming.—T. E. Drake, Clerk to the Visiting Justices, Exeter, November 18.

For making a Cylindrical Sewer in the Town of Cambridge, to be 2 feet in diameter, 34 yards in length, and the average depth about feet.—Frederick Randall, Cambridge. November 19.

For Paving the Streets within the Manor of Southwark, or Clink Liberty.—Mr. Edmonds, Surveyor, Bridge-street, Southwark.—November 20.

For the different Works to be done in erecting a New Gaol at the Borough of Banbury, under any of the following heads, viz.: 1. Mason. Brickwork, &c.; 2. Carpenter and Joiner; 3. Plumber and Glazier; 4. Slater; 5. Plasterer; 6. Ironfounder, &c.; 7. Painter.—Messrs. Hurst and Moffatt, Architects, Leeds or Doncaster; and James Beesley, Town Clerk, Banbury. November 21.

For the supply of Four Pleasure Carriages and Six Second-class ditto, for the Manchester and Birmingham Railway. November 21.

For the supply of 800 yards of Angular Train Plates for a Railroad.—John Latham, 28, Princess-street, Manchester.

For building a Sewer in Ellison-street, Petticoat-lane.—Joseph Daw, Sewers' Office, Guildhall. November 26.

For supplying Iron Railing and Gates round the Birkenhead Park, about 3¼ miles.—The Chairman of the Improvement Committee, Town Hall, Birkenhead. November 26.

For the supply of First, Second, and Third-class Carriages to the Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale Railway.—James Smithells, Secretary, Railway Office, Bury. November 30.

For the construction of Locomotive Engines and Tenders for the Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale Railway.—Mr. C. E. Cawley, Engineer, Railway Office, Bury. November 30.

For the supply of 600 Coal Waggons to the York and North Midland Railway Company.—George Baker, Secretary, York, December 4.

For the building of a Tunnel on the Edinburgh, Leith, and Granton Railway.—December 4.

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